

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method, for operating an online dating service in which two users of the service are capable of communicating with one another online, the method comprising:

operating an online dating service;

inputting to at least one server associated with the online dating service first profile data related to a first user of the online dating service and second profile data related to a second user of the online dating service;

providing a mechanism by which the first user and the second user communicate online with one another; and

transferring value from one of the users first user to another the second user.

2. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim of claim 1, wherein the ~~two~~ first and second users are both online when the value is transferred from one user to the other.

3. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim of claim 1, wherein it is a condition of the transfer of value that the user to whom the value is being transferred is prepared to communicate online with the user from whom the value is being transferred for a predetermined minimum length of time.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim of claim 3, wherein the predetermined minimum length of time is based on the value transferred.

5. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim of claim 1, wherein the value transferred is monetary value.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method as claimed in Claim~~ of claim 1, wherein the transfer of value is represented in the online dating service as a virtual version of a real life transaction.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method as claimed in Claim~~ of claim 1, wherein the first and second users can choose the amount of value to be transferred.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method as claimed in Claim~~ of claim 1, wherein the online dating service provides each user of the first and second users with an online account in which their respective balance is held, the transfer of value being effected by a transfer from one user's account to another's.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method as claimed in Claim~~ of claim 8, wherein each of the first and second users can add credit to their account or withdraw value from their account.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method as claimed in Claim~~ of claim 9, wherein value is withdrawn in the form of non-monetary vouchers.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method as claimed in Claim~~ of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ an operator of the online dating service ~~can take~~ takes a commission from at least one transfer of value.

12-15 (Cancelled)

16. (New) A computer system, comprising:
at least one server, wherein the server is used to operate an online dating service;
an input mechanism which receives input to the server, wherein the input comprises first profile data related to a first user of the online dating service and second profile data related to a second user of the online dating service;
a communication mechanism by which the first user and the second user communicate online with one another;

a storage mechanism, wherein the storage mechanism stores a value associated with the first user and a value associated with the second user; and

a value transfer mechanism by which a value is transferred from the first user to the second user.

17. (New) The system of claim 16, further comprising a plurality of server components which are combined in a single server application.

18. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the server components are located at a single server device.